

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

People, Places and Events

When events occur for the first time or when people achieve new things there is usually popular acclaim to remember the events or the people. There are many memorable "firsts" in Wallsburg, including the following:

The first school house and church building was constructed inside the fort area and Mrs. Lucina M. Boren was the first school teacher. The first school house outside the fort was the home of Martin Ford, and the first regular school building was on the property of George L. Batty. Miss Josephine Wall was teacher in 1859. Teachers who came to these first schools lived in the homes of Jennie Allred, Susan Davis, Amber Ford and Mrs. John Graham.

Some of the first musicians that played for dances were William Bancroft, dulcimer; George Allred, Amber, Martin and Alfred Ford, James Wheeler and William Davis who played the violin, organ and guitar.

Mrs. Polly Mecham was the first doctor in Wallsburg and used herbs as well as faith and prayer in caring for the sick. Mrs. Annie Mecham, wife of John L. Mecham, also was an early doctor in the area.

The first irrigation ditches were made by W. J. Boren and William Haws.

The first post office was directed by William E. Nuttall and the mail was carried on horseback and carriage by Dixon Greer. The mail route from Wallsburg was to "String Town" or what was later Harry Watson's farm near Charleston. Other postmasters included S. D. Greer, George Dabbling, George P. Garff, Della Mecham, Orpha Wall and Alice C. Graham. Mail carriers included Abram Penrod, Elijah Davis, Ray Boren, Ellis Boren, Willard Davis, John Wall and Roy V. Loertscher.

The first manufacturing was the production of shingles. Owner of the first shingle mill was William Nuttall. John Parrell, Enoch Richens and Elijah Davis also owned an early mill. There were many good lumber mills and carpenters, including William Ford and Martin Ford Jr., who were especially skilled at manufacturing caskets.

The first piece of machinery brought to Round Valley was a mower and reaper, used by Martin Ford, Sr.

The first cabinetmakers were W. J. Boren, William Haws and Luke Burdick. Mr. Boren was also a skilled cabinetmaker. Early stores were owned by Eben Samp, James Allred, Jacob Harris and Dixon Greer.

The first saw mill was owned by William Penrod. W. J. Boren and James Wheeler, William G. Nuttall and Daniel Bigelow also owned mills.

the advisability of urging a consolidation of the districts of Wasatch County into a high school district.

After much discussion, the parties decided to go in body to each of the other districts and lay before them the feasibility of the plan. Accordingly the trustees of Midway, Charleston, Daniel, Center, Wallsburg, Elkhorn and Riverdale, were visited with an accumulating number of members, all of whom were favorable to the consolidation.

"The County Superintendent was then petitioned by the trustees of the respective districts, save Wallsburg, to call an election wherein the citizens could express their wishes in the matter, by ballot. The result of this election showed an overwhelming majority from each district in favor of local high school instruction.

"A later election chose J. W. Clyde and D. A. Broadbent from Heber; Chas. I. Bronson and Geo. A. Huntington from Midway; J. M. Ritchie and E. L. Cropper, Charleston; Virgil Howe and W. S. Plummer, Daniel; H. W. Harvey and A. M. Hanson, Center; Jas. McDonald and Wm. Davis, Elkhorn; J. R. Baum and Geo. B. Jordan, Riverdale; who with Superintendent Orson Ryan as chairman comprised the first board of trustees.

"On canvassing the various districts for prospective high school students, it was found there were more than a hundred eligible for entrance, twenty-five of whom were eligible for second year work. For this reason the board decided to offer, during our initial year, a two-year course; which resulted in the enrollment of 75 first year and 25 second year students.

"At the opening of our 2nd year, a third year course was added. The year closed May 13, 1910, with a graduating class of 18 members.

"With J. W. Robinson as principal and the loyal and substantial support of our citizens, we have hastily become an institution second to no rural high school in the state.

"Through the courtesy of the citizens of Heber we are privileged to hold forth in quarters of their school building and in rooms over the Heber Mercantile, pending the erection of our high school home.

"With Andrew L. Neff and his assisting faculty for the coming year we may proudly say that the sons and daughters of Wasatch need no longer leave the county for first class high school work."

This enthusiastic report then continued with a description of the various classes to be offered during the 1910-11 school year, and the extra-curricular sports and cultural activities.

The first high school faculty consisted of three persons, Prof. Robinson, the principal, James Johnson and O. A. Whitaker. The second year, an English teacher, Ramona Wilcox, a domestic arts teacher, Florence Billings and an athletic coach, Henry Raile, were added to the faculty.

Equipment for the school rooms was hard to come by, and many stu-